

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

### BOTH HOUSES COME DOWN TO WORK AND BUSINESS.

A Number of Important Measures Introduced, and Various Disposed Of.

COLUMBIA, November 26.—The Legislature of South Carolina is a large body, but it doesn't take long for it to come together when the law commands. On Monday there were few signs of the approaching session, until the evening trains brought numbers of Senators and Representatives. The arrivals continued till just before the hour for meeting, and by that time there were few members of either branch who were not ready for the roll-call. Everybody very naturally wended his way to

### THE STATE HOUSE.

which, by authority of the Legislature, has been improved and refitted in a manner of once handsome and substantial. Its present condition and arrangement are in marked contrast with those of former and recent years. Since 1876 the man who entered that hall and remained in it day and night throughout the session, did so at the risk of his life. Huge gaps in the ceiling, loose window sashes and broken panes of glass gave entrance to death-dealing draughts, which brought pneumonia and consumption to those who were exposed to their influence. The four old stoves which formed the basis of the Asher Palmer claim, and which occupied much of the valuable time of the House and Senate, were kept warm only by an army of pages, attendants and half-frozen representatives, who had to hug them in order to thaw out their frozen limbs. All this has been changed, and the legislative halls of South Carolina are now what they should be.

Major John D. Brown, the sergeant-at-arms of the House, has been here for a month or more superintending the arrangements for the comfort of the members, and Colonel L. R. Marshall, the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, has also been at work. It is somewhat difficult to give one an idea of the improvements that have been made. The hall of the House of Representatives is a picture, in very bright colors, of that in the National Capitol. It is surrounded with galleries, which will afford ample accommodation for visitors and which will be given the members more room than they have ever had. The marble floor is covered with art-squares; the walls are in a light shade of terra cotta with neat paneling and a dado of light-colored polished tiles, decorated with bronze, cherry and gold. The galleries are of brass, and the supports in cherry and gold. The Speaker's desk is of cherry, with a retiring room in the rear of cherry and gold.

The decorations of the ceilings are very rich blue and gold, and the vaulting colors of the pannels. The portraits of Hampton and Gordon are hung just above the Speaker's desk.

In the Senate Chamber the improvements are equally marked. The prevailing shades here are of Nile green and olive, richly traced with gold. The President's desk is of walnut and above it hangs a life-size portrait of Calhoun.

The heating arrangements, however, are the most important. The entire building is heated by two batteries of three boilers each, one located in the east and one in the west basement of the building. From these boilers run pipes, &c., which send the hot air to the radiators in the different portions of the building. Each boiler furnishes its quota of heat with but five pounds of steam, which is arranged that it automatically stops the pressure when the steam given amount. The result is pure comfort for everybody in the building—comfort that should carry conviction to the mind of every lawbreaker in the State and secure an appropriation sufficient to completely finish the State House.

### AT WORK.

The Senate was convened without any ceremony—Lieut.-Gov. Mauldin simply calling the body to order. The usual committee waited on the Governor to inform him that the Senate was organized. Shortly after the usual message of his Excellency was presented, and read by the clerk.

At noon, the constitutional hour, Clerk Sloan called the House to order and proceeded to call the roll by counties. A quorum was announced to be present, whereupon Speaker Sikes assumed the chair and spoke the following prayer: "The opening prayer had been delivered by the Rev. J. N. Young, of Abbeville:

"Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: On reassembling to exercise the important functions entrusted to you, to legislate for your fellow-citizens, whether divine or human, may individually entertain as to particular measures, I am persuaded that each one of you approaches the task animated by the single purpose of striving to promote the honor and welfare of the State, to advance the happiness and prosperity of her people.

"Permit me to express the hope that the success of your labors shall be commensurate with the patriotism with which I am sure they will be inspired.

"Since your last meeting Mr. L. B. O'Bryan, a member from Barnwell, has departed this life. For several years a Representative of the people, a gentleman courteous and considerate, in the discharge of his public duty a member conscientious and faithful. I am convinced the announcement of his decease will be received with sorrow.

"Mr. P. H. Nelson, a member from Kershaw, having accepted a disinterested office, communicated to me his resignation.

"Pursuant to Section 23, Article II. of the Constitution of the State, as construed by the invariable practice of this House, I issued writs of election to fill the vacancies thus occasioned.

"Trusting that the harmony and courtesy which have always conspicuously distinguished the proceedings of this House may continue to attend your deliberations, I now commend you to the transaction of the business before you."

Next followed the usual primary motions—the appointment of a committee, Messrs. Ansel, Pope and A. F. O'Brien, to wait upon the Governor—the usual

exchange of messages with the Senate and the reading of the returns from counties where special elections had been held to fill vacancies. Resolutions were received from the Centennial Exposition Association, of the Ohio Valley, and from the National Grange, in reference to expositions, &c., and were referred to the committee on Federal relations. The Speaker announced the appointment of Wardlaw Moorman as a page, vice John Lake, resigned.

Messrs. Jenny, of Barnwell, and Magill, of Kershaw, elected to fill vacancies, and Dr. Bethen, of Marion, who did not qualify at the last session, were sworn in.

A motion was adopted, requiring the enforcement of the 77th rule, which provides that only certain persons therein named be admitted to the floor of the House.

Next arose the question of seats. The last session had been held in the Agricultural Hall and the members had their drawn for seats. The question that confronted the House was whether there should be a new drawing, or whether the members should retain their original numbers.

The Speaker called attention to the fact that the rule authorized only one drawing, and that it had been exhausted at the last session.

There was some discussion, participated in by Messrs. Thomas and McKissick, of Union, Jordan, of Sumter, Thomas, of Columbia, Dean, of Spartanburg, and others, and it was finally determined that there should be a new drawing; on the basis, however, and in the order of the drawing last year.

It took about one hour to get the members seated, and this having been accomplished, the House addressed itself to the hearing of the Governor's message, which had been received sometime before.

The message was read by Mr. M. Anderson. Its reading was commenced at 1:11 p. m., and was concluded at 2:40—one hour and twenty-nine minutes.

The House seemed in a humor for work, and the motion to reassemble at 7:30, p. m., was promptly adopted. These night sessions have been kept up all the week, the only intermission being on Thursday because that day was a general holiday.

The House calendar contained 167 bills brought over from last session. Many of these measures have been already disposed of. Those of most interest to the general public will now be outlined.

### THE LITEN LAW.

The bill to repeal the Liten Law caused some discussion, but was ultimately killed by a vote of 47 to 31. It is thought that this is a test vote upon the main question, as this bill was by many members thought much too sweeping. One result of its passage would have been to destroy the Liten now allowed to land, for the matter may come up at another stage of the present session.

### THE GAME LAW.

The bill to amend the game law caused quite a discussion. The object of the bill, it was said, was to amend the law in the list of protected birds, the birds being that the present law was evaded by people who call partridges quails. Mr. Rutland, of Fairfield, moved to kill the bill. The motion was lost, and then there was another half hour of amendments and discussion.

Mr. Davenport, of Greenville, wanted to put opposition in the bill. He said he was fond of an opossum when it was good and fat, and they ought to be protected until they were fat and fit to eat. The opossum amendment was lost on a division by a vote of 35 to 34.

The bill to amend the game law was then taken up. The bill was passed on November 1; the close of the season for doves is from March 1 to August 1.

### THE TRIAL JUSTICES.

The House has passed a bill which makes it a criminal offense for trial justices to receive any fees or to divide the constable's fees in any criminal case, whether the case is actually tried or compromised or transferred, under a penalty of a fine of \$50 to \$100, or imprisonment of thirty days to six months.

### A CONFEDERATE HOME.

Dr. Pope, of Newberry, has introduced in the House a bill to provide a home for disabled Confederate soldiers. This bill embodies the following provisions:

First, a call for the donation of not less than 100 acres of land and \$25,000 for the building of a home for the disabled Confederate soldiers, the location of the home to be decided by the board of trustees contemplated in the bill to pass upon and decide the location from among those proffered.

The entire management of the institution will be vested in this board of trustees, the members of which are named in the bill and include the members of the State's Confederate Veterans' Association.

The number of beneficiaries to be admitted to the home is to be equal to the representation in both houses of the Legislature and apportioned among the various counties in proportion to their representation in the Legislature.

The bill further provides for annual appropriation by the Legislature of \$25,000 for the support of the institution.

Whatever may be the fate of this particular measure, it is safe to say that the matter of providing for needy and deserving ex-Confederate soldiers will take some shape during the present session. Senator Murray, of Anderson, has introduced a resolution asking the Comptroller General to furnish a statement of the number of Confederate soldiers residing in this State who are unable to maintain support and the number named and wounded.

The members are giving some thought to the matter and want information. Senator Edwards, of Darlington, has introduced a bill to pension needy soldiers and sailors of the Confederacy. The whole matter will be carefully considered by our lawmakers.

### THE COUNTY OF FLORENCE.

Some of the papers in the eastern section of the State have recently discussed the proposition to create the new county of Florence, to be formed out of portions of Marion, Darlington and Williamsburg. The area of the proposed county is 653 square miles, made up as follows: From Marion 337 square miles, from Darlington 247 square miles, and from Williamsburg 169 square miles. The population of the new county is estimated at 22,000. The promoters of

the new county offer the following financial arguments in favor of its establishment:

"The town of Florence, by votes (unanimous) of a taxpayers' meeting, and of its town council, has pledged itself to provide the jail and courthouse free of expense to the new county, and at the cost of the town, provided they be located in Florence; and by request of the town council, a bill is pending in the Legislature to authorize the town to issue bonds and levy taxes for the purpose. This will start the new county free of debt, and in a healthy financial situation—and the same remark is equally applicable to the counties of Marion, Darlington and Williamsburg. The taxes of the territory proposed to be included in the new county will amply support its county government without the necessity of increase over the best rate in any of the old counties. The old counties after separation be compelled to raise their rates in order to get along. The saving in their immense mileage bills will abundantly compensate for all difference in receipts. Florence (as an independent county) has been exempted from municipal taxation, the extensive and costly machine shops of the Atlantic Coast Line, which, nevertheless, pay the State and county taxes."

They also urge that "large tracts of unimproved forest lands exist in the extreme parts of West Marion and North Williamsburg, which will be developed by the impetus derived from a new county seat, advantageously located, and the rise in values will be followed by heavier tax receipts; while the rise in values in Florence, from natural growth of the town, accelerated as it will be, if made a county capital, will also add heavy and ever increasing sums to the treasury of the county."

### THE TAXATION OF DOGS.

Considerable debate arose in the House, when Mr. Boozer, of Lexington, called up his bill to tax dogs. This bill provided a license tax of \$1 per year to be paid by the owner of every dog in the State. The tax to be applied to the use of the free school, and Mr. Boozer made a strong speech in support of his bill, showing that the dogs in this State cost the people over \$3,000,000 per annum. The bill, said he, did not contemplate the annihilation of the canine race; it simply proposed to make the owners pay for the privilege of owning them. Mr. Boozer urged particularly that those who hunted partridges, and deer, and doves, and opossums could very well afford to pay for their pets.

Mr. Rogers, of Richland, also advocated the bill. If the people of the State would raise dogs, he said, they would have fewer dogs, there would soon be an increase in its prosperity.

Mr. Davenport, of Greenville, said that a man who couldn't raise dogs and hogs, too, must be a mighty poor man. He had himself raised more children than any man in this House, and he had seven hound dogs, a half a dog to a child. He also had plenty of dogs.

An hour was consumed in the discussion, after which the bill was indefinitely postponed, 63 to 36.

### THE KERSHAW AT THE ELECTION LAW.

At the last session, Miller, the likely majority who in part represents the negroes of the county of Kershaw, introduced a bill to amend the election law, his objective point being the abolition of the "eight-hundred." He called up his bill on Wednesday morning. Immediately his colleague Washington moved to strike out the offending words—a motion which enabled Miller to make a strong speech, explaining the purpose of his bill, the effect of which would be to turn the State over again body and soul to the Republican party, which ruled it so successfully from 1868 to 1876. Miller mentioned incidentally in the course of his remarks that he regarded the party "was dead, and would never again raise its head in this State; a statement which was received by the House "with a good many grins of mirth." Miller finished his oration and a motion was speedily made and adopted to indefinitely postpone the bill. Yes 95, may 5. All the colored Democrats voted with the majority.

Mr. Aldrich's bill to amend Section 89 of the General Statutes was next reached and passed. It disqualifies from voting "persons kept in any almshouse or asylum, or of unsound mind, or confined in any public prison, or who shall have been convicted of treason, murder, burglary, larceny, perjury, forgery or other infamous crime, or dueling."

Another of Miller's amendments was next indefinitely postponed, viz: A bill to amend the General Statutes relating to the qualification and registration of voters. Miller consumed about an hour and a half of the time of the House in the exercise of his constitutional right to speak, and to demand the yeas and nays. He was soon satisfied—with the yeas and nays, if not with their relative number.

### THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

The Trustees of the University have formulated in a bill their plan to raise the standard of the South Carolina College, to reorganize its departments, and to increase its efficiency. The bill has already been introduced.

The Trustees are also seeking to mature a scheme to procure a farm of one hundred acres in or near Columbia, under the management of the Agricultural Department of the institution.

### THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Hon. E. B. Murray has introduced in the Senate a bill to organize the State Agricultural College, and to devolve the duties of the present Department of Agriculture upon the trustees of such College.

### FOUR-HOLE SWAMP.

Four-hole Swamp was disencumbered at length, in the shape of a bill, which certain lakes in Colleton and Berkeley counties private property, the lakes in question are Bridge Lake, Wood's Lake, Minn's Lake, and Willard Lake. The bill sought to vest the right to fish, &c., in the waters in the alleged owners of the lakes, and a strong appeal for it, but it was argued on the other side that if the lakes in question were, as alleged, in the bill, the property of the parties named, there could be no necessity for passing the bill. After a sharp skirmish the bill, on motion of Mr. Rayson, of Orangeburg, was indefinitely postponed.

### THE WAYS AND MEANS.

The ways and means committee have not yet commenced the work of preparing the appropriation and supply bills. The following estimates of the Comptroller General of the supplies required for the current year will be of interest to the public:

Salaries and contingent fund of Executive department \$44,420  
Judicial department 56,750  
Health department 9,100  
Tax department 23,900  
University 21,500  
City and 20,400  
Penitentiary 6,300  
Lunatic Asylum 103,000  
Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum 12,850  
Legislative department 52,250  
Miscellaneous, including election expenses, &c. 48,500

Total \$398,970  
Interest on public debt 383,965  
Total \$782,935

This expense does not include extraordinary expenses which are covered by special appropriations. The receipts at the treasury last year, as appears from the treasurer's report, were \$958,551.18, which, added to the cash balance in the treasury October 31, 1886, \$96,808.70, made a total of \$1,055,359.88; and the gross expenditures were \$987,971.83. The balance in the treasury at this time being \$104,388.05, an increase during the year of \$7,576.35.

OTHER MATTERS.

Among the bills introduced is one by Senator Talbot, of Edgefield, making a reduction of about twenty per cent. in the salaries of State officers, their clerks, and Circuit Solicitors. The same Senator has introduced a bill to abolish the office of Master.

The bill to abolish the board of directors of the State Penitentiary and the regents of the Lunatic Asylum, and to substitute therefor the Governor, Comptroller General, State Treasurer and Secretary of State, was killed by a vote of 82 to 21.

The Collection county stock law bill was postponed till Wednesday next, and the Orange prohibition bill to Monday next.

The doctors in the House had an interesting discussion on a bill to amend Section 919, of the General Statutes, relating to physicians, which was at first killed and then reconsidered, and finally passed. The bill refers to the registering of physicians from other States desiring to practice in this State.

A bill providing that no one shall be allowed to practice dentistry without obtaining a license from the board of dental examiners caused some debate. The price of license is \$15. The bill was advocated by Mr. Abney, of Richland, and Dr. Walker, of York. Mr. A. F. O'Brien, of Colleton, opposed it. The bill was finally passed.

The first prohibition victory of the session was won without a struggle. It was in the shape of a bill to repeal the charter of the town of Ford, in Orangeburg county, which of course stops the sale of liquor in that village. The bill was passed without opposition.

Mr. Lee, of Charleston, has introduced a bill to make the carrying of concealed weapons a felony. Referred to the judiciary committee.

The following are other bills which have been passed: To incorporate the town of Holly Hill, Berkeley county; to amend the law in relation to taking depositions de bene esse in civil actions, &c.; to amend Section 1,825 of the General Statutes relating to distress for rent.

On Friday the two houses met in joint assembly in the hall of the House of Representatives to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court occasioned by the expiration of the term of Judge McGowan. The judges were elected to succeed himself.

The Senate a bill for the relief of King's Mountain Mill School was killed without debate.

A bill to regulate the practice in the Court of General Sessions in regard to peremptory challenges and setting aside of jurors was passed to a third reading.

A House bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to create a Department of Agriculture, defining its purposes and duties, and charging it with inspection of phosphate and regulation of sales of commercial fertilizers," was made the special order for Wednesday at 12 o'clock.

An amendment proposing an amendment to section 1, article 1, of the Constitution of the State was made the special order for Friday, December 11.

A joint resolution giving life tenure to judges was killed on its final reading by a vote of 22 to 7.

The following are among the important bills now pending:

By Mr. Murray: A Bill to require railroad companies to keep open an office with an officer authorized to act for such companies in this State.

By Mr. Murray: A Bill providing that no pardon be granted by the Governor to any male person convicted of treason, murder, larceny, perjury, forgery, or other infamous crime, or dueling, or to such person the right of suffrage unless the Governor in such pardon shall explicitly state that the pardon is intended to remove the political rights of the parties pardoned.

By Mr. Talbot: A joint resolution to provide for the calling of a Constitutional Convention.

By Mr. Talbot: A bill to abolish the office of County Auditor and devolve the duties thereof upon the County Treasurer.

The Fate of Ex-Senator Jones.

A Chicago Daily News special from Detroit, Mich., says: "It became known for the first time yesterday, to a few persons, that ex-United States Senator Charles F. Jones, of Florida, who has been in the city for some time, is practically a beggar upon the street, and, but for the charity of friends, would be without food or shelter. When Mr. Jones came to Detroit, he was very free with his money, and gave lavishly to benevolent societies. He boarded at the best hotel until a few months ago, when he was unable to pay his bill. He then went to a cheaper house, and last night his room was locked on him and he slept on the floor in the hall. He was observed by a man whom he had befriended in his better days, and was taken to the man's home. Mr. Jones is almost a mental wreck. He is pursued with the idea that some enemies, whom he never names, are following him, and that he will yet 'down them.'"

## THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

### THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE STATE.

Suggestions Concerning Different Matters of Interest and Importance to the Commonwealth.

The usual annual message of the Governor was read to the Legislature Tuesday. The topics discussed in the document are as follows:

### THE STATE DEBT.

The outstanding debt of the State is \$6,400,000. Of this amount \$277,000 consists of the estimated validity in those bonds issued between 1868 and 1872 and of the ante bellum bonds which have not yet been consolidated under the Act of 1873. There is every reason to believe that a large proportion of these old bonds have been lost or destroyed, and that the State will never be called upon to redeem them.

The Comptroller General reports that but few of these bonds are being funded and recommends that a limit be put to the time when they may be exchanged, except by special legislation. As our whole State debt must be readjusted in 1893, the date of its maturity, it is recommended that this recommendation be adopted as sound policy, and referred to the consideration of the Legislature.

During the past year the Sinking Fund Commission has canceled \$2,517,510 of Deficiency bonds, and will soon take up \$200,000 more—leaving about \$400,000 of these bonds to be paid to maturity. The Governor recommends that the State borrow that sum, at 4 to 4 1/2 per cent., to take up these bonds. He also recommends the ultimate funding of the whole debt at 4 per cent.

By reference to the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund it will be found that there were on the forfeited land list at the end of the fiscal year ending October 31, 1886, 954,237 acres. That during the present fiscal year, and October 31, 1887, new forfeitures have been incurred which amount to 100,045 acres, the whole amounting in the aggregate to 1,054,282 acres.

During the present fiscal year 45,298 acres of land have been sold or redeemed, and 94,131 acres have been stricken from the list of forfeited lands, and still there remains on this list a net acreage of 914,853 acres. While the foregoing exhibit shows that the acreage of land on the forfeited list at the present time is 39,383 acres less than at the same time last year, it will be seen on examination that this decrease is not due to the fact that taxes have been more promptly paid, but to the activity and efficiency of the Land Department in effecting sales and redemptions of forfeited lands and in discovering and claiming numerous forfeitures that had crept into the forfeited list from 1868 to 1886. The fact that 100,045 acres of new forfeitures have been incurred during the present fiscal year is a matter of serious moment to the State, and a great incentive to those citizens who are engaged in the effort to constrain them to pay their taxes.

To enact a law that will abate this great and growing evil is a matter, therefore, for the most earnest consideration of the Legislature.

The Governor then reviews the course of legislation on this subject—showing that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

EDUCATION.

Touching the public schools the Governor refers to the report of the Superintendent of Education, and suggests a general reorganization of the system, so that the effect of legislation and the decisions of the Courts has been to increase forfeitures. The Governor recommends legislation to give a purchaser of forfeited lands a good title, and to enable the Sinking Fund Commission to collect through the Courts, back taxes now unpaid. The new law is suggested as a means to, and not a substitute for, the means now afforded to the Commission to effect sales or redemptions.

as well known as any of the Southern States. The good work the Department is now doing and its work in the past will, I am sure, commend it to your continued support and encouragement."

THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

The Governor reports to the Legislature the establishment of the two Experimental Stations, one of 300 acres in Spartanburg and one in Darlington of 227 acres, and says:

"This arrangement secures unity and economy of management, with such diversity in the field tests of crops, fertilizers, &c., as the marked differences in the agricultural conditions of the two great sections of the State demand.

"At the Spartanburg farm the Superintendent is already in progress, and fertilizers are already in progress, and the farm implements and machinery have been purchased, and ground has been prepared for an experimental orchard, fruit garden and vineyard. Between forty and fifty experiments, testing numerous varieties of small grains and fertilizers are already in progress.

"At the Darlington farm the Superintendent's house will be finished next month, the barn has been contracted for, and a collection of grains and fertilizers purchased for experimental purposes."

The Governor further calls attention to the "Hatchery bill," and suggests the employment of some of the fund from this source in perfecting a scheme of agricultural experiments and investigations in the agricultural department of the South Carolina College.

THE PENITENTIARY.

There are in the State Penitentiary 78 white males, 2 white females, 870 colored males and 50 colored females. They